



Striding on Together 同心同進

This year, Hong Kong celebrates twenty years of the Hong Kong SAR. As we do so, I believe there is also good cause to celebrate the extraordinary progress the Club has made over that time. For it was almost twenty years ago that we set ourselves the goal of bringing world-class racing to Hong Kong.

大約20年前，馬會訂立目標，於香港發展世界級賽馬。今年，適逢香港特區成立20週年，本人十分高興看到在慶祝特區生辰之際，市民亦可一併慶祝馬會20年來的發展。

This was, without question, an ambitious target. Hong Kong has just two racecourses, no breeding industry and a horse population of around 1,200 thoroughbreds. Yet today, Hong Kong racing has been transformed. Our horses rank among the world's best, with a record 26 in the 2016 world rankings, while all 11 of our international Group 1 races feature in the World's Top 100 Group 1 races. Meanwhile, our racecourses have been revitalised, our wagering and information technology is cutting edge, and last year, as a mark of the respect our racing now commands, Hong Kong was elevated to Part 1 of the Blue Book. This latter achievement is arguably without precedent. For the only other jurisdiction to achieve Part 1 status in recent years is Japan, which not only has more races and more horses in training, but also has its own breeding industry.

But perhaps the most telling evidence of the strength of Hong Kong racing is the audience it now commands overseas. Since 2014, when it first became possible for the Club to enter into commingling arrangements with other jurisdictions, the global appetite for Hong Kong's world-class racing has grown exponentially. Only this season, two major jurisdictions – the United Kingdom and Canada – were added to the list of six jurisdictions already commingling on our races, with the prospect of more to come. The Club has also entered into publishing and telecasting arrangements across the world, which enable a growing international fan base to access our race cards, form and live broadcasts.

World-class racing, I should stress, has always been about much more than raising Hong Kong's sporting profile. By maintaining, and growing, racing's fan base, our aim is to increase our support for the community. And thanks to the Club's outstanding business performance over the last ten years, this is precisely what has been achieved. Betting duty and tax paid to the Government has risen from HK\$13.1 billion in 2007/08 to a record HK\$21.7 billion this year. Charity donations, which stood at HK\$1.1 billion in 2007/08, almost quadrupled to HK\$3.9 billion in 2015/16, placing the Charities Trust among the top ten charity donors in the world. This year, we achieved a new record of HK\$4.1 billion donated to 215 charity and community projects. Together with HK\$3.5 billion donated to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority to construct the Hong Kong Palace Museum, total donations were HK\$7.6 billion.

從當時看來，很明顯，這是個頗為進取的目標。香港雖然只有兩個馬場及約1,200匹純種賽駒，而且沒有育馬產業，但香港賽馬發展至今確已一日千里。現時，不少香港賽駒高踞全球頂級佳駒之列；2016年，香港有26匹賽駒列入世界馬匹年終排名榜，打破以往紀錄；而香港舉辦的11項國際一級賽，全數位列於2016年全球百大一級賽年終排名榜。此外，兩個馬場經已進行活化，我們的投注及資訊科技正走在時代尖端。去年，香港因其高水平賽馬而獲升格為「藍冊」的第一部分賽馬地區，此項成就可謂史無前例。近年，除了香港之外，只有日本可以成為第一部分賽馬地區，惟需知道，該國不僅賽事及現役賽駒數目均多於香港，而且更擁有育馬產業。

香港賽事對海外觀眾的吸引力，也許正是香港賽馬卓越水平的最佳證明。2014年，馬會首次與其他地區訂立匯合彩池安排，自此，全球各地對香港世界級賽馬的需求大幅增長。直至去季，共有六個地區設有香港賽事匯合彩池，單計今季已新增兩個主要地區，分別是英國及加拿大，預期數目將會繼續增加。馬會亦與全球各地訂立出版及電視廣播安排，讓更多的海外馬迷得以接觸香港賽事、了解香港馬匹態況及觀賞賽事直播。

我必須強調，馬會舉辦世界級賽馬的目的遠遠不止於提升香港的體育水平。透過維持，以至擴闊馬迷基礎，我們更希望加強馬會對社區的各方支持。有賴馬會過往十年的亮麗業績，我們的確做到這個目標。十年來，我們支付予政府的博彩稅及其他稅款，由2007/08年度的131億港元，上升至今年破紀錄的217億港元；我們的慈善捐款則由2007/08年度的11億港元，上升約四倍至2015/16年度的39億港元，馬會慈善信託基金因而位列全球十大慈善捐助機構。今年，馬會的慈善捐款再次刷新紀錄，達41億港元，支持215個慈善及社區項目；基金另外撥捐35億港元支持西九文化區管理局興建「香港故宮文化博物館」，慈善捐款合共達76億港元。

It is to reflect the world-class status of our racing, and our greater community role, that we have now reformulated, with greater clarity, the Club's purpose, core values and integrated business model.

Our purpose reaffirms our commitment to the betterment of our society, placing it at the centre of everything we do. Our core values – world-class leadership, uncompromising integrity, continuous development, serving the community – guide our every action. And our unique integrated business model encapsulates the multiple ways in which we create economic and social value: through our world-class racing and racecourse entertainment; through our members and horse owners; through our responsible sports wagering and lottery services; and through our tax payments and donations to charity and community.

It is the synergy of these elements, working together, which enables the Club to contribute to the betterment of our society. Indeed, I believe it is fair to say that we are the envy of governments and racing jurisdictions around the world.

FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR SOCIETY

With our purpose more clearly defined, and with additional resources available as a result of our improved business performance, the Club is now adopting a more strategic and long-term approach towards its community role. In particular, the Charities Trust, working in close partnership with the Government and NGOs, is being more proactive in addressing social needs, including through its own Trust Initiated Projects. Over the last two years, while continuing to support existing sectors, it has focused on three areas, namely youth development, creating a more age-friendly society, and building a sports-for-all culture. Some 195 projects, with a committed value of just over HK\$4 billion, have been approved under these three strategic areas.

This year, the Trust added a fourth area – arts, culture and heritage. This is not a new area for the Club. Over the past decade alone, the Trust has donated more than HK\$4 billion to arts-related initiatives. Now, building on this experience, and believing strongly in the benefits of the arts in enriching community life and the vital need to protect and preserve Hong Kong's culture and heritage, we want to expand our role. We want to broaden the base for the arts by promoting a diversity of art forms, to empower the community through participation in the arts, and to open up more opportunities for citizens to enjoy cultural activities.

為了更確切反映香港賽馬的世界級地位，以及馬會更趨重要的社會角色，我們已重新就本會的宗旨、核心價值及綜合營運模式作更清晰的闡述。

我們的宗旨重申了馬會致力建設更美好社會的承諾，一切業務運作以此為中心。我們的核心價值，包括卓越領導、堅守誠信、持續進步及服務社群，引領我們每項舉措。獨特的綜合營運模式，正好概括了馬會如何透過世界級賽馬及馬場娛樂、馬會會員及馬主、有節制體育博彩及獎券服務，以及繳納稅款及社區慈善捐款，從多方面創造經濟及社會價值。

結合上述各方面所產生的協同作用，令馬會得以為建設更美好社會作出貢獻。若說馬會的營運模式足令各地政府及賽馬地區稱羨，實在也並不為過。

致力建設更美好社會

馬會宗旨的闡述更為明晰，加上因業績改善，帶來額外資源，令我們可在社區貢獻方面擔當更具策略性及更長遠的角色。當中，慈善信託基金與政府及非政府機構緊密合作，透過基金主導項目等形式，更積極主動回應社會需要。過去兩年，基金除維持對原有範疇的支持外，同時重點推動三大範疇，包括青年發展、構建長者及年齡友善城市和培養全民運動文化，超過40億港元捐款已獲審批，支持此三大範疇下約195個項目。

今年，慈善信託基金新增了第四大策略範疇——「藝文共享」。對藝術文化項目，馬會素有支持，單計過往十年，慈善信託基金已捐款超過40億港元支持相關項目。馬會認為，保護及保存香港的古蹟文化非常重要，同時深信藝術有助豐富社區生活。因此，我們希望藉累積得來的經驗，在相關範疇做得更多更好。我們期望透過宣揚多姿多采的藝術形式，擴闊藝術基礎，同時讓更多市民參與藝術，為社區注入活力，並為大眾提供更多享受文化活動的機會。



Two projects in particular – the Central Police Station compound, and the new Hong Kong Palace Museum – will make a very significant contribution to Hong Kong's cultural landscape.

Initiated to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Hong Kong SAR, the restoration and revitalisation of the Central Police Station compound is perhaps the largest such project ever undertaken in Hong Kong. It will preserve for posterity a very important part of our history. More than this it will be a living, breathing cultural space, featuring a changing programme of exhibitions, performances and cultural activities, which we hope will educate, inspire and entertain in equal measure. We look forward to its opening with the keenest anticipation.

中區警署建築群及「香港故宮文化博物館」是其中兩大重點項目，啟用後將對香港文化領域作出重大貢獻。

中區警署建築群活化計劃是為紀念香港特區成立十週年而推行，相信是本港至今最大型的修復活化項目，將會成為本港一塊文化瑰寶，把一段重要歷史流傳後世。此外，中區警署項目亦會提供充滿活力的文化休閒空間，各類展覽、表演及文化活動將源源不絕在此上演。我們希望，活動在提供娛樂的同時，亦能教育及啟發市民。我們熱切期盼項目早日落成。

Whereas Central Police Station will showcase the best of Hong Kong and international contemporary art, the Hong Kong Palace Museum, whose construction the Trust is supporting in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Hong Kong SAR, will provide access to the treasures of one of the world's great museums. Hong Kong has never had such a world-class museum before, and I believe it will not only be greatly valued by the community but will help raise our city's profile internationally.

I should stress, however, that our focus on these four strategic areas has in no way affected our other donations. For example, this year, in what is its second largest donation ever to the medical and health sector, the Charities Trust donated HK\$1.24 billion to The University of Hong Kong to establish the Centre for Clinical Innovation and Discovery and the Institute of Cancer Care at the to be redeveloped Grantham Hospital. Benefiting some 220,000 people a year, they will help address what is now the leading cause of death in Hong Kong.

As we expand our community role, we are also aware that the Club is part of a fast-growing philanthropic community within Asia Pacific, including Greater China. It was to establish a regional and international dialogue, and also to give Hong Kong NGOs the opportunity to engage with international best practice, that the Charities Trust organised the inaugural Philanthropy for Better Cities Forum in September 2016. The first conference of its kind in the region, it drew over 1,300 delegates, including representatives from major international foundations. In view of the enthusiastic response, the Club is now planning a follow-up conference next year.

LOOKING FORWARD

While our twenty-year journey to world-class racing has reached a high-point, this does not mean that it is complete. If we are to continue fulfilling our purpose of acting for the betterment of our society, we must constantly maintain the health of our integrated business model. We need to attract members who share the Club's core values, who will carry forward its commitment to the community, and who will continue to invest in the quality horses that make our world-class racing possible. We need to continue investing in our racing infrastructure and technology in order to meet the expectations of our racing fans and wagering customers, as well as to shield them from the dangers of illegal gambling. Above all, we need to ensure that the resources we generate through our racing and wagering continue to serve the needs of our community.

中區警署集中展現香港及國際當代藝術的精髓，而「香港故宮文化博物館」則讓市民有機會欣賞來自舉世知名博物館的珍藏。項目由馬會慈善信託基金撥款協助興建，以慶祝香港特區成立20週年。過往香港沒有如此世界級的博物館，我相信，「香港故宮文化博物館」不但會受到市民歡迎，更有助提升香港的國際地位。

必須強調的是，馬會雖然重點推動四大策略範疇，但並未對我們的其他捐款構成任何影響，其中一例是馬會慈善信託基金今年撥捐12億4,000萬元予香港大學，於重建後的葛量洪醫院，設立臨床創新及研發中心和癌症綜合關護研究所(暫名)。此筆捐款是基金歷來第二大的醫藥衛生項目捐款。項目針對香港現時頭號殺手而設，落成後估計每年惠及約22萬名市民。

馬會在社會的角色更趨重要，與此同時，我們亦明白馬會是慈善事業發展迅速的亞太地區，包括大中華地區的一份子。馬會慈善信託基金於2016年9月首次舉辦「慈善共創 都市聚焦」國際慈善論壇，藉此構建一個地區性及國際交流平台，讓本港非政府機構探討最佳實踐方案。這是區內首個同類型論壇，吸引了超過1,300名業界代表出席，包括國際大型基金會的代表。是次論壇深受各界踴躍支持，馬會現正籌劃明年舉辦後續會議。

邁步向前

20年來，香港賽馬逐步邁向世界級水平，得以再創高峰，但這決不是終點站。我們必須確保馬會的綜合營運模式能夠持續穩健發展，方能實現繼續建設更美好社會的宗旨。我們需要會員的支持，一起維護馬會的核心價值，承傳馬會對社會的承諾，同時繼續投資於優質賽駒，延續香港的世界級賽馬。馬會亦需持續投資於賽馬基建配套及科技設施，以滿足馬迷及投注客戶的期望，協助他們遠離非法賭博的禍害。最重要的，是我們需確保賽馬及博彩業務所得收益，能持續用作回應社會所需。

Two projects are helping us achieve these goals. Firstly, the new clubhouse extension, currently under construction at Happy Valley, will help us meet the needs of both current and future members, providing more facilities for families and younger members and for those who want to pursue more active lifestyles. At the same time, the ambience of the main clubhouse will remain unchanged. Over the last year, members have provided a great deal of useful feedback, for which I would like to express my sincere thanks. The extension remains on track to open in 2020.

Secondly, next year will see the opening of the long-anticipated Conghua Training Centre in Guangdong. Conghua will provide our horses with superb stabling, training and horse care, as well as facilities not currently available, including an uphill gallop and spelling paddocks. I have no doubt it will lead to even more competitive and world-class racing in the years ahead.

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to Lord Sandberg, who passed away shortly before the end of the season. As a Steward for fourteen years, and Chairman between 1981 and 1986, Lord Sandberg made a very great contribution to the Club during an important phase of its development. He will be greatly missed.

I would like to thank my fellow Stewards for their support and guidance over the last year, in particular Deputy Chairman Mr Anthony Chow. My sincere appreciation to the Board of Management under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges and to all of the Club's staff for their hard work and commitment. It has been a privilege to share the many achievements of the Club over the past year, and I look forward to even more significant progress in the season to come.

Simon S O Ip
Chairman
26 July 2017

為實現上述目標，我們推行了兩大項目，其一是現正進行的跑馬地會所擴建工程。工程將迎合現有會員及未來所需，除了保留會所大樓氛圍外，還引入更多設施，為一家大小，以至年輕好動的會員提供動感生活體驗。過去一年，會員向我們提供了不少寶貴意見，我在此衷心致謝。會所的擴建工程進展順利，預計於2020年啟用。

其二是大家期待已久、預計明年開幕的廣東從化馬匹訓練中心。中心將設有頂級馬房，並提供一流馬匹訓練及護理設施，包括一些香港目前仍未具備的設施，例如上斜訓練跑道及放草場地。我深信，中心日後定能進一步提升香港賽馬的競爭力，推動世界級賽馬的發展。

最後，我謹此向沈弼勳爵致敬。沈弼勳爵於本季煞科不久前與世長辭，他曾為馬會董事14年，並於1981至1986年間擔任馬會主席，在馬會的重要發展階段作出了重大貢獻，馬會同仁深切悼念。

最後，我非常感謝各董事，特別是副主席周永健，過往一年的支持及指導，亦衷心感謝行政總裁應家柏領導的馬會管理委員會同仁及全體員工的努力。能夠分享馬會過往一年的種種成績，實在與有榮焉。期盼馬會來季再創佳績，更上層樓。

主席 **葉錫安**
2017年7月26日